

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 30

1230 Hours November 16, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

Next Conference Call is scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2005, 0930 hours

Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions. Contingency plans are in place for these actions to continue through November 30, 2005.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with limited staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast: **Southwest VA: Wednesday 16 November** – Rain showers in the morning, then a slight chance of rain showers early in the afternoon; High temperatures mid to upper 40s, west winds 10 to 15 MPH, Chance of precipitation 90%. **Wednesday night** – Partly cloudy, low temperatures low to mid 20s, west winds 5 to 15 MPH. **Thursday 17 November** – Mostly sunny, high temperatures upper 30s to low 40s, northwest winds 5 to 15 MPH. **Thursday night** – Clear, low temperatures upper teens to low 20s, northeast winds 10 or less. **Friday 18 November** – Mostly sunny, high temperatures low to mid 40s, light winds.
Rainfall: IFLOWS rainfall gage located at Big Cherry Dam received 1.27 inches rain in the 24-hour period ending 1400 hours 16 November.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
The VDOF has signs in place notifying residents of the burn ban.

ESF 8 – Health & Medical: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

VDH continues monitoring absenteeism in Big Stone Gap schools. ***No new cases of chickenpox reported.*** VDH will continue monitoring chickenpox for additional 21 days. VDH Environmental Health Specialist visited all permitted food service establishments to ensure compliance with plans. Radiological test results are still pending, but are expected soon. Linden Mine appears to be a good water resource. VDH is compiling reports on current and future potential water sources such as the Bullet Mine and water test results are being compiled into a report. Well at Mt. Empire Community College and two wells in Appalachia are to be tested once pumps are activated.

ESF 13 - Public Safety & Security:

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

The VNG continues the blivet support mission. Eleven blivets are in place. Twelve soldiers remain on mission. ***Pumping operations at Powell Cave #1 start at 0600 and end at 2000. Pump maintenance performed from 2000 to 2200.***

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis. DEQ is requesting loss water report from Big Stone Gap to document results of leak detection and stoppage. These efforts need to continue as water supplies for other sources are diminishing.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area and messages are being changed frequently so members of the community do not become complacent. A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies. VEOC requested a more detailed account of actual daily water output from all water sources being utilized. This accounting will be shared with all interested parties. VEOC requested Incident Management Team develop timeline for blivet management.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County is considering temporary connection to Wise County PSA/Dorchester as alternate source to replace Norton and Appalachia supply, if problems develop within their systems. Current Powell River stream flow is 53 cubic feet per second.

Powell River Cave #1 is producing approximately 100,000 gallons of water per day. A team from Radford will enter the cave in the near future to determine volume and re-charge capability.

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